

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 54-84 are pending, and claims 1, 54, 61, 66, and 67 are in independent form. Independent claims 1, 54, 61, 66, and 67 have been amended as discussed below, and claims 6, 16, 57-60, 62, 64, 69, 79, and 82-84 have been amended for consistency with the amended independent claims. Claim 85 has been added. Support for the amendments and new claim is present throughout the specification, including at FIG. 2 and paragraphs [0017]-[0024] of the pre-grant publication. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The assignee wishes to thank examiner Patrick Darno for the courtesies extended to assignee's representative, Matthew Johnson, during a telephone interview on April 8, 2011. During the interview amendments to the claims were discussed in view of the cited references. Recommendations were made by the examiner. These recommendations are incorporated into the claims as noted above.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-14, 16-17, and 54-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,980,817 ("Chow") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,577,834 ("Traversat"), in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0087300 ("Lewis").

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Chow, Traversat, and Lewis, and in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0058652 ("McGregor").

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

To expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to recite a hierarchical provisioning request message that identifies a plurality of provisioning events from a plurality of service providers to request for an entity. The claimed hierarchical provisioning request message includes a provisioning event data structure associated with each of the plurality of provisioning requests requested for the entity, where a provisioning event data structure identifies a service

provider associated with a provisioning event requested for the entity. The provisioning system is operable to electronically receive the single, hierarchical provisioning request from the external system and to transmit information in the hierarchical provisioning request to trigger the provisioning events.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited combination of references does not teach or suggest such a system. For example, the cited combination of Chow, Traversat, and Lewis does not teach a single, hierarchical provisioning request message that identifies a plurality of provisioning events to request for an entity. An example provisioning request message is depicted in FIG. 2:

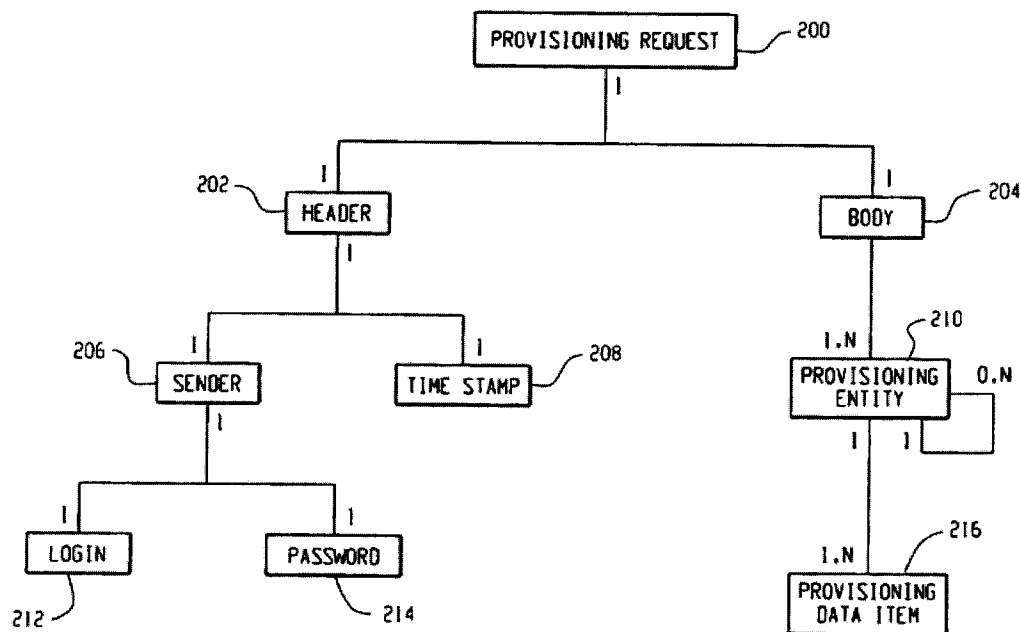


Fig. 2

Further, the cited combination of references does not teach a provisioning system that receives the single, hierarchical provisioning request message and transmits information in the hierarchical provisioning request message to each of a plurality of service providers identified in the hierarchical provisioning requests to trigger the provisioning request.

Because the cited combination of references does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 54, 61, 66, and 67 have been amended to recite similar features. It is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejections of claims 54, 61, and 67 be withdrawn for similar reasoning as offered above for claim 1.

Claims 2-17, 55-60, 62-65, and 68-85 depend from allowable independent claims and are allowable for that reason. New claim 85 describes further details related to the hierarchical provisioning request message and is allowable for that reason as well.

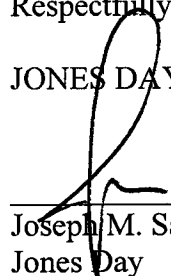
It is noted that the applicant has not provided arguments with respect to the dependent claims in the instant application. This is done without prejudice to the applicant's right to present such arguments at any point in the future. In addition, because each of the dependent claims depends from an independent claim that is itself allowable, the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as are the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, the pending claims are allowable. The examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES DAY



Joseph M. Sauer (Reg. No. 47,919)
Jones Day
North Point, 901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 586-7506